

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0262

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINT, TU
SUBJECT: NEW DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
RELATIONSHIPS

REF: 77 ANKARA 9318 (DTG 231400Z DEC 77)

1. ANKARA DOMESTIC SERVICE CARRIED THE ANSWERS OF TURKEY'S
NEW DEFENSE MINISTER HASAN ISIK TO QUESTIONS POSED BY A
DEUTSCHE PRESSE CORRESPONDENT. ISIK IS QUOTED AS SAYING
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THAT TURKISH AMERICAN MILITARY RELATIONS ARE "DEEPER THAN
NORMALLY REQUIRED" AND THAT TO MAINTAIN THEM THE TWO
COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT OPPOSE EACH OTHER "ON ISSUES THEY
CONSIDER VITAL." "IF UNDER THESE CONDITIONS THE UNITED
STATES CAN KEEP AN EQUAL DISTANCE BETWEEN ITSELF AND TURKEY
AND GREECE, THAT WILL BE OF GREAT VALUE TO TURKISH-AMERICAN
MILITARY RELATIONS AND TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ALLIANCE."

(SEE FBIS 1700 GMT 10 JAN 78)

2. LOCAL PRESS JANUARY 11 REPORTED THAT ISIK ALSO TOLD GERMAN CORRESPONDENT THAT "THE DEFENSE OF A COUNTRY CANNOT BE TRUSTED TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, EVEN TO ALLIANCES." IN THIS CONNECTION, ISIK WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE "NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT" WHICH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT FIRST BROACHED DURING HIS ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO FORM A GOVERNMENT IN MAY OF 1977. ISIK WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "IT IS A FACT THAT THE NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT WHICH WILL BE ELABORATED UPON BY TURKEY WILL BE LINKED WITH TURKEY'S GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION."

3. COMMENT: ISIK PLOWED NO NEW GROUND NOR DID HE CLARIFY ECEVIT'S VAGUE "NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT." ECEVIT TOOK THE POSITION LAST MAY THAT TURKEY SHOULD CONTINUE ITS NATO MEMBERSHIP BUT THAT US DOMINATION OF THE ALLIANCE HAS SAPPED THE AUTHORITY AND INITIATIVE OF THE OTHER MEMBERS. THE RESULTING REDUCTION IN "RESPONSIBILITY AND FLEXIBILITY" CREATED AN UNDESIRABLE DEPENDENCE OF TURKEY ON NATO, HE CONCLUDED. ECEVIT'S "NEW DEFENSE CONCEPT" POSSIBLY MAY BE ELABORATED IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM WHICH IS TO BE PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT THIS WEEK, OR HE MAY BE CONTENT TO LEAVE IT AS VAGUE AS IT HAS BEEN UP TO NOW.
SPIERS

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